

MARKET BILL OF AMERICA

Records Show That People of This Country Consume More Food Per Capita Than Those of Any Other Nation

WASHINGTON, June 22.—It costs in round figures \$8,000,000,000 a year to feed the American people, an amount just about equal to the annual value of all the products of the Uncle Sam's six and a half million farms. There is no question that at the present time the average American eats more food of a higher quality and a greater variety than the citizen of any other country. There is no question, either, that he spends far more for his food supply than the resident of any other land, and that the growth of his food budget has been far more rapid than the increase of his wages, great as these have been in many cases.

For several years the bureau of labor here collected information on the expenditure for food in the homes of over two thousand workmen in different parts of the country with the incomes of about the average for their class. The growing pressure of the cost of living problem may be seen in the steady increase in the outlay of these families for food from 1897, when it was a trifle less than \$200 a year, to 1907, the last year for which statistics were published, when it had advanced to \$375. Since 1907 there has been a 10 per cent further advance in food prices, so that the cost to the average workman's household for food alone now is presumably \$410 a year. Applying this to the whole country would give the sum of \$7,300,000 as a food budget, to which should be added the surplus outlay of the 10 per cent of the nation's households that spend double this amount in furnishing their tables, which would give a total of slightly over eight billions.

That this estimate is roughly accurate is shown by the fact that it approximates so closely the total value of food supplies produced in the country. While it is true that \$385,000,000 worth of foodstuffs were sold to foreign nations in 1911, at the same time \$252,000,000 was spent for food supplies brought from abroad, leaving to Uncle Sam's credit only the meager balance of \$32,000,000 on this score. In ten years our exports of foodstuffs have fallen off over 50 per cent, while imports under the same heading have increased 50 per cent. If this movement continues at the same rate as in the past it will be only two years more before Uncle Sam, who once proudly boasted of "feeding the world," will have to call upon other nations to help feed his own people.

While the manner in which the \$400 expended by the family of the average American is distributed varies greatly in different parts of the country, it is possible to give reasonably accurate estimates of some of the chief items contributing to the total.

It is a familiar fact, for example, that Americans are the greatest meat eaters of the world. In a great number of American families meat forms some part of every meal, and even in the poorest homes it appears on the table for dinner at least, whereas a family of the same relative social stratum in many European countries would not expect to eat meat oftener than once a week. In the course of a year the average American family consumes an amount of beef representing the equivalent of a yearling steer and the pork product of an average sized pig, besides smaller quantities of poultry and mutton. In very few families probably does the amount of the annual meat bill fall below \$150. In addition it takes the output of one milch cow to supply each family with its milk, butter and cheese. The expense of this feature of the American diet amounts to about \$55 a year for the average family, an investment in dairy cattle of nearly a billion dollars being required to supply this demand. With the Western range fast disappearing, and the consumption of all these products increasing at a rapid rate with the growth of the population, it is small wonder that the price of all meats have gone soaring and that we expect only about a third as much of these products as we did five years ago.

If each family in the United States were able to keep a flock of a dozen chickens, these would just about supply the average family with poultry and eggs. Of the latter the average consumption is a little more than two a day for each household. Many of these are used in the manufacture of various food products and do not figure directly in the marketing bills in which these items probably amount to \$10 to \$12 a year.

Since bread is the staff of life, and bread to the American means wheat almost exclusively, it is perhaps not surprising that we consumed approximately 267,000,000 bushels of wheat last year, according to official estimates. This means that seven barrels of flour were used by the average American family. Purchased in this form and prepared for consumption in the home in accordance with the custom that prevailed a generation ago, this would have meant an expenditure per family of slightly over \$50. In less than half the homes of the country is bread baked at the present day, however, and the custom of patronizing the corner bakery inevitably increases the expenditure on this account to a considerable extent.

Next to meat, bread, milk, butter and eggs, it is probable that sugar and coffee are articles of more nearly universal consumption in the United States than any others.

Coffee is one of the few food products of which the entire supply must be purchased in other countries, but this does not deter the American people from using 870,000,000 pounds of it

every year, or nine and a quarter pounds for each man, woman and child in the country. The price of coffee has doubled in the past half dozen years, and the expenditures for this breakfast luxury at the retail rates prevailing probably represent an outlay of about \$10 a year for each family. Of tea, on the other hand, Americans consume relatively little, less than five and a quarter pounds being used by each family at a yearly cost of between two and three dollars.

When it comes to sugar, it must be admitted that Americans have a very pronounced sweet tooth. They consume about eighty pounds of sugar apiece in the course of a year, or more than the people of any other country except England, and the United States as a whole uses nearly one-fifth of all the sugar produced in the world. Of the average consumption of eighty pounds, however, only about one-half is bought direct for family use, the other half being used in manufacturing various food products. Sugar is almost the only article of general household use also that has not been subject to a marked advance in price within the past few years. Expenditures of the average family on this score amount to about \$12 a year, or just about the amount that is spent for coffee and tea. In view of the food value of sugar as a supplier of energy, this is a very moderate expenditure.

It doubtless will surprise most persons to learn that the United States now produces about half of all the sugar consumed in the country. The sugar beet farmers of the country provide over a billion pounds of sugar a year; the cane sugar growers of Louisiana and Texas furnish about 700,000,000 pounds additional; Hawaii, Porto Rico and the Philippines send 1,800,000,000 pounds. The remaining half, or 3,700,000,000 pounds, comes almost entirely from Cuba. From the economist's viewpoint, sugar is of peculiar interest as the only commodity now purchased in vast quantities from foreign producers which the United States can grow from its own soil. It is claimed that if the domestic sugar industry continues to receive the encouragement of the government as it has in the past through a customs duty on the imported product, this result will be accomplished within another two decades, and that this is about the only hope of keeping the balance of trade in foodstuffs favorable to the United States. If the \$100,000,000 or more now sent abroad to pay for sugar were disbursed through domestic trade channels, the country's trade balance on the exchange of food commodities would be \$132,000,000, or nearly five times as great as it now is.

The desirability of having Uncle Sam produce his own sugar has been widely discussed as a result of the proposal brought before congress recently for the admission of foreign sugar free of duty. Advocates of this proposal asserted that it would be better to abandon the domestic sugar industry and to purchase the entire supply from abroad, claiming that this would result in a lowering of the retail price of the commodity and a saving estimated at something like a cent and a half per pound. Sixty to seventy cents a year for each person. Opponents of the plan asserted that even if such a saving could be effected, it was of negligible importance compared to the disbursement of \$45,000,000 a year to the farmers and workmen of the country through the domestic industry, with a prospect of ultimately increasing this to 250,000,000 a year. Representatives of the department of agriculture lent the weight of their testimony to the view that the industry should be encouraged, pointing out that by the utilization in sugar beets one year in four of only one acre in fifty of the country's farming lands adapted to best culture, the United States could grow its entire supply of sugar, and that moreover the culture of this crop was of vast benefit to the country by increasing the yield of every crop grown in rotation with it.

One of the striking exhibits in the list of annual expenditures is the outlay of over \$50 by the average family for various forms of alcoholic refreshment. The average consumption of each individual on this score is 22.75 gallons a year, of which the greater part, between twenty and twenty-one gallons, is beer. Whiskey and other hard liquors are used to the extent of slightly less than a gallon and a half, while only two-thirds of a gallon of wine is consumed. While these items perhaps should not be included in an estimate of food costs, they play a very considerable part in accounting for the disposition of the average family income.

Of tropical fruits, the United States imports yearly about \$25,000,000 worth. In addition to the more than \$200,000,000 represented by the vast variety of native fruits, making an annual expenditure of \$12 to \$15 by the average family for this purpose.

Taking into account the expenditures of the average American family for what may be called the staple articles of diet, it appears that they amount to about \$200 a year. This does not include the amount spent for alcoholic drinks, nor does it include vegetables, the supply and prices of which vary so much in different parts of the country that it is difficult to compute the average amount expended for them. Estimating the cost of vegetables at one-half the average expenditures for bread and cereals, which seems a conservative estimate, and adding in the liquor bill, we find that the total is \$375, which is just the amount estimated by the department of commerce and labor as the actual expenditures of typical workmen's families in different parts of the country in 1907. Adopting the estimate of \$410 as the present expenditure, this would leave a margin of only \$35 for items not enumerated.

KEY RING FOR A BRIDE

At a marriage service at Cheltenham parish church it was found the bridegroom had forgotten the ring. At the suggestion of the vicar, the key of the church door, which had a ring at the end, was commandeered and the ceremony was completed.—Pall Mall Gazette.

Hire a little salesman at The Republican Office. A Want Ad will see more customers than you can.

CIRCLE GLOBE ON MOTORCYCLE

Fred Koegel, Chicago Globe Trotter, Will Ride Buzz-Bike on World Tour—Already Has Medals for Distance Walking.

Fred G. Koegel, of Chicago, champion globe-trotter of the world, is on his way around the earth on a motorcycle. Although he holds records for walking around the world and riding around on a bicycle, he is now seeking new laurels astride the two-wheeler.

Koegel left Chicago recently en route to Rochester, Albany, N. Y., and Boston. From the Bay City he will sail to England, tour across the island, sail to France and begin his long continental journey. He will travel over the many historic roads of France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, thence north to the bleak passes of Russia and Siberia, and through picturesque China and Japan. At Tokyo, he will board a liner plying the Pacific and return to San Francisco. From the Golden Gate he will complete his motorcycle journey to the Windy City.



This motorcycle journey of many thousand miles is expected to take six months. His previous trips around the world have taken from fifteen to twenty-two months, but with the sturdy motorcycle he intends to beat all records.

In 1895 Koegel finished his first trip around the globe on foot. He had spent twenty-two months en route and visited many foreign countries. Five years later he went around on a bicycle, beginning and completing the trip in Paris, France, within fifteen months. When he completed his first trip around the world he obtained the Richard K. Fox medal for the world's walking championship.

Although the motorcycle has changed its way to all parts of the United States and through European countries, Koegel is confident that this worldwide jaunt will further establish the supremacy of the two-wheeler as a tourist's pleasure mount.

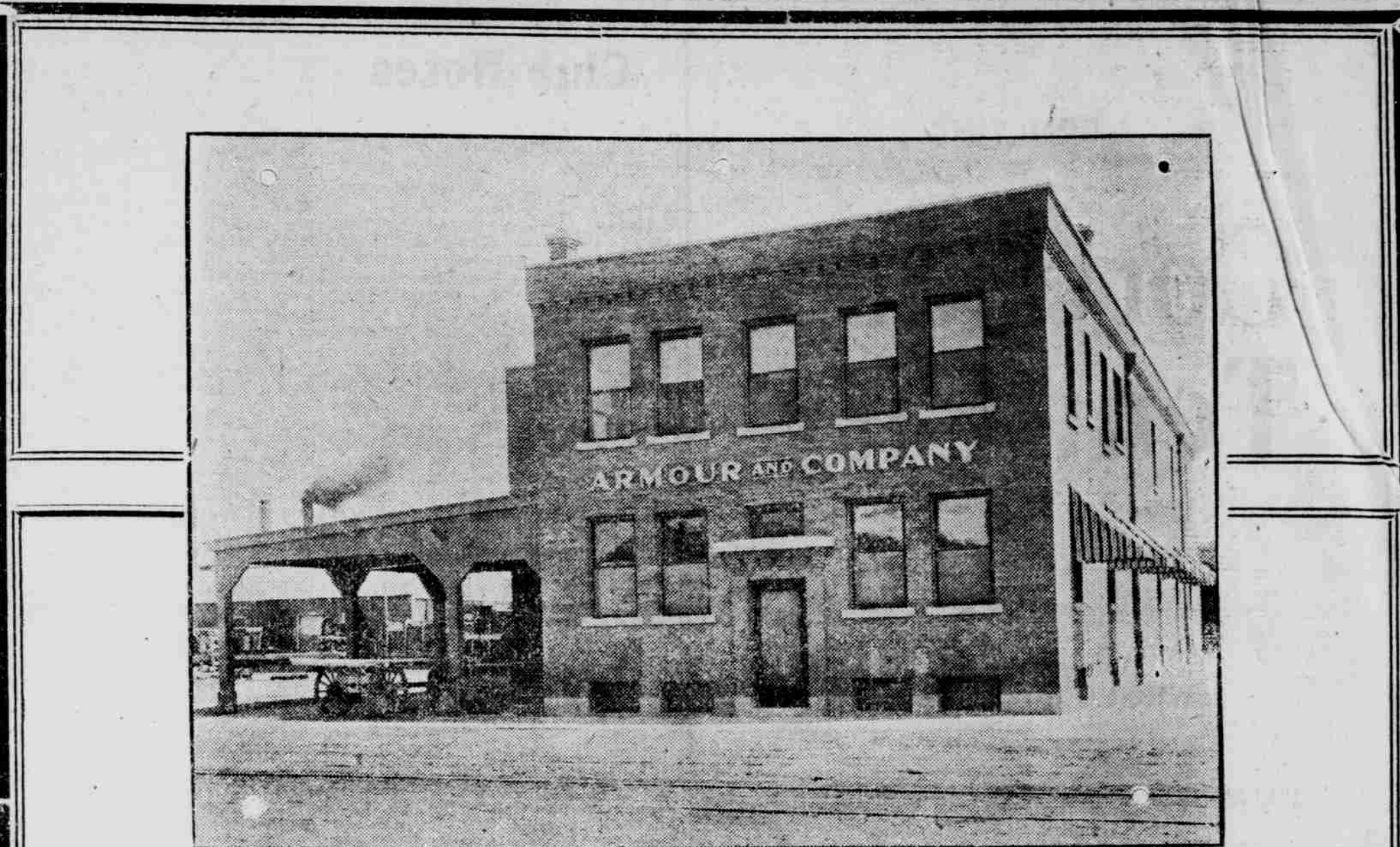
BRING ON THE SMALL COINS

Collier's Sees No Great Alarm in 3-Cent Pieces and Halfpence.

The world is so full of a number of coins that any new step causes shrill outcries of warning. Who could have guessed a few weeks ago that the fat and jovial brewer and the long-faced, solemn deacon who passes round the contribution plate would be singing in the same chorus of protest against a bill by Representative Bulkley of Cleveland for more small coins—the one "victim" fearful of three-cent beer or the necessity for collars of foin half as deep as the glass, the other crying woefully that Sunday morning contributions would be reduced from nickels to three-cent pieces in the church auditorium and from "pennies" to Columbus halfpence in the Sunday school.

Personally, the prospect in general fills us with gloom; and with what we save on other expenses we feel we might be tempted to lavish two threes on the plate instead of the conventional five. We anticipate three-cent car fares (the Hon. Bulkley nobly justifies the trust reposed in him by Ohio strap hangers) and joyfully predict the arrival of three-cent loaves of bread, cheaper telephone calls and a 50 per cent reduction in the price of slot machine chocolate wafers. Only think of what the half-cent piece will mean to the shop-girl—nothing less important than cheap chewing gum! Parents may find comfort in the reflection that the cry of the children some day can be stifled with a coin of smaller denomination than the cent. We will be able to read twice as many newspapers and not spend an extra fraction of a mill.

A great variety of a nickel has been vended at a nickel that might sell profitably enough at three cents. That is part of the secret of how the owner of a string of five-and-ten-cent stores can produce the money to build the world's tallest skyscraper. He recognized fractions of a nickel, as do the push-cart merchants in



ARMOUR AND COMPANY INVITE YOU TO SEE HOW THEY HANDLE MEATS

ARMOUR AND COMPANY'S NEW BRANCH HOUSE IN THIS CITY, LOCATED AT 241-247 W. JACKSON ST.,

Will Be Opened To the Trade and General Public Monday, June 24th, from 9:00 A. M. to 9:00 P. M.

¶ This is but one of the many Armour branch houses placed over the country for the distribution of government inspected meats and pure foods.

¶ You and your friends are cordially invited to call and inspect it. There will be something to interest everyone—the housewife, the trade, the studios and the curious.

¶ This branch house is equipped equally as well as any of the Armour branch houses in the country. In construction, finish and equipment, it represents the best that experience can suggest or money can buy to secure sanitary perfection and absolute cleanliness as well as to facilitate the handling of meats and food products, being a practical demonstration of the Armour way of doing things.

¶ Armour and Company have six of the largest, cleanest and best equipped packing plants in the world, all of which are constantly engaged in the production of government inspected meats and pure foods. The methods adopted in these plants to secure perfect sanitation and absolute cleanliness are represented in the construction, finish and equipment of this house. Wood and other materials that soak up fat or liquids are eliminated wherever possible.

¶ In connection with the opening, there will be a complete exhibit and demonstration of meat

and food products of the highest class. These include smoked meats, dry salt meats, sausages of all kinds, beef extract, lard,—in fact, all kinds of animal products, all of which have passed a rigid government inspection.

¶ We will also display a full line of Soda Fountain Supplies and Grape Juice. These are all put up at factories located in the fruit growing districts. All Armour's Grape Juice is bottled in the heart of the New York and Michigan vineyards, where the best Concord grapes grow.

¶ There will also be a display of high grade Toilet and Laundry Soaps and Lighthouse Cleanser, products of the Armour Soap Works.

¶ A demonstration will also be made of Armour's celebrated "Star Ham and Bacon," commonly known throughout the world as "The Ham What Am," which products human skill can make no better.

¶ Armour and Company want everybody in Phoenix and vicinity—everyone that buys, sells or eats meats—to know the "Armour Way" and the Armour products as you know your neighborhood grocery and meat market. "Seeing is believing." To see this typical Armour branch and exposition of the Armour products is to appreciate as never before why the name "Armour" has been for a generation a mark of quality in meats and food products.

SOUVENIRS FOR THE LADIES

SOUVENIRS FOR THE GENTLEMEN

Everybody Welcome to Partake of the

"HAM WHAT AM"

New York's East Side or Chicago's Ghetto, and economical consumers may find comfort in the reflection that the cry of the children some day can be stifled with a coin of smaller denomination than the cent. We will be able to read twice as many newspapers and not spend an extra fraction of a mill.

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Some men of genius have undoubtedly believed with Thackeray that it is better to love foolishly than not at all; that they have practiced this philosophy is proved by their memoirs and biographies.

Leigh Hunt loved a good girl whose spelling was unconventional and whose chirography could not be called her chief accomplishment. He was wildly, madly in love with a commonplace girl named Fanny Browne. He married her, but she was incapable of appreciating him.

Hazlitt, the brilliant essayist, loved the pert, coarse daughter of his landlady. He wrote her a letter which she never answered, and he said that "the rolling years of eternity would not fill up the blank that her failure to answer that letter caused."

A practical Scottish girl, Charlotte Carpenter, won Walter Scott's love

She not only hated literature, but objected to writing to him. He wrote her, saying: "You must write me once a week." She replied: "You are quite out of your senses, and you need not put in so many 'musts' in your letters. It is beginning too early."

Alfred de Musset's love for the irresponsive George Sand gave rise to thoughts such as an extraordinary elevation that he wrote many brilliant poems in consequence. Chaucer sang the praises of many queens, but his one great love was Philippa Picard de Rouet, the lady-in-waiting to Queen Anne of Bohemia. He waited nine years to marry her, but made it

a matter of complaint in several poems. Moore lived up to his theory that love's young dream is the sweetest thing in life. He never let one love get old before he supplanted it with a new one. Carly had his Sally of "Sally in Our Alley" fame. Surrey loved Geraldine from the time she was a child in short dresses. Corneille, the astute lawyer, fell in love and became the brilliant dramatic poet. Thus it seems that love, whether successful or otherwise, for a time inspires its votaries.—Tit-Bits.

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